

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Chairman, on August 3, 1998, I was unavoidably detained and missed roll call vote 379. If present I would have voted 'no' on the Shays-Meehan substitute. When it comes to restricting political participation, the courts have consistently ruled on the side of free speech. So-called good government proposals banning certain contributions, clamping down on issue advocacy, or otherwise restricting participation in the political process are unconstitutional in my opinion and infringe on free speech. It is important for voters to be accurately informed of a candidate's position, but in no way do I want to limit voter knowledge. Shays-Meehan would limit voter knowledge about issues and candidates and keep voters from being accurately informed of candidates' positions. I am absolutely opposed to any unconstitutional infringement of free speech, and would have voted 'no' on the Shays-Meehan substitute if present.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Chairman, due to official business in the 15th Congressional District of Michigan, I was unable to record my vote on several measures. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 3743, the Iran Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act of 1998; "aye" on S.J. Res. 54, a Joint Resolution Condemning Iraq; and "aye" on passage of the Shays-Meehan amendment to H.R. 2183, the Campaign Finance Reform Bill.

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise. The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE) having assumed the chair, Mrs. Emerson, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2183) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reform the financing of campaigns for elections for Federal office, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF  
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Commerce:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, July 30, 1998.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,  
The Speaker's Rooms, U.S. House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I want to thank you for your kind letter this week celebrating our successes on privatization, and also to respond to your suggestions that we map out a blueprint for further achievements in the next session of Congress.

In fact, my staff and I discussed the same idea some weeks back, and we're excited about your request. As you and I discussed, we will focus on options for privatizing Amtrak, Social Security, the power marketing resources including TVA, and the United States Post Office. You can expect the report shortly after Thanksgiving.

We will lay out for you legislative options and document how other countries built political consensus to make tough decisions. I am convinced we can net the Treasury hundreds of billions of dollars, and at the same time provide better services to U.S. taxpayers.

Unfortunately, because of the time commitment to this project and future business plans in Wisconsin, I will have to make a difficult choice.

Today I am tendering my resignation from the Commerce Committee.

I'm proud of what the Committee accomplished during my tenure. With Chairman Tom Bliley's leadership, we speeded up the FDA's approval of new drugs saving thousands of lives. We deregulated the exploding telecommunications industry. Perhaps most important of all, our bold plan saved Medicare for our children.

I deeply appreciate your leadership and friendship. I look forward to finishing one last assignment for you.

Sincerely yours,

SCOTT KLUG.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

ELECTION OF MEMBER TO  
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H.Res. 515) and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration and adoption.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 515

*Resolved*, That the following named Member be, and she is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Commerce: Mrs. Wilson.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resolution is agreed to.

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill, H.R. 4276 and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,  
JUSTICE, AND STATE, AND JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 508 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4276.

□ 1920

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole

House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, with Mr. HASTINGS of Washington in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN) will each control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS).

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, this will be of interest to the Members on the schedule for the rest of the evening so that Members may be guided about the rest of the evening's activities.

It is the intent of the majority to proceed to the consideration of the Commerce, Justice, State appropriations bill and to do general debate and to take up the Legal Services Corporation amendment but to roll any votes that might be ordered until tomorrow, so that there would be no further votes this evening, in which case, then, the Committee would rise after the consideration of that amendment.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROGERS. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, it was my understanding, also, that we would not proceed in title I beyond Legal Services; is that correct?

Mr. ROGERS. As I said, we would take up general debate and the Legal Services amendment only. I would have hoped that the gentleman would have agreed that we could do all of title I, and I would be happy to proceed with that if the other side would so agree.

Mr. OBEY. But the gentleman understands that the agreement that was just reached at this desk with his leadership was that we would go only as far as the amendment on Legal Services and no further tonight in title I.

Mr. ROGERS. I understand that is what the gentleman wants and I will abide by that. I would hope, would like, to proceed through title I and roll all the votes until tomorrow. And I see no reason why we should not do that, but I will abide by the agreement that the gentleman mentioned.

Mr. OBEY. I just think it is important for Members to understand that there will be no votes tonight because of the understanding that we will not proceed beyond the Legal Services amendment.

Mr. ROGERS. I would hope that the gentleman would agree to proceed with title I.

Mr. OBEY. Well, then there is no agreement. We might as well have motions to adjourn all evening. If the